

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed H.R. 4486, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2527–S2569

Measures Introduced: Four bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2271–2274, and S. Res. 430–431. **Page S2566**

Measures Passed:

Silver Star Service Banner Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 430, expressing support for the designation of May 1, 2014, as “Silver Star Service Banner Day”. **Pages S2567, S2568**

National Month of the Military Child: Senate agreed to S. Res. 431, honoring military children during the National Month of the Military Child. **PageS S2567–68**

Measures Considered:

Minimum Wage Fairness Act: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2223, to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property. **Pages S2527–28, S2535–54**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 54 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 117), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S2546**

Subsequently, Senator Reid entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked. **Page S2546**

Chuang, Hazel, Moritz, Schneider, Levine, and Selfridge Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 11:15 a.m., on Thursday, May 1, 2014, Senate vote on the motion

to invoke cloture on the nominations of Theodore David Chuang, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, George Jarrod Hazel, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, and Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit; that if cloture is invoked on any of the nominations, all post-cloture time be expired and at 1:45 p.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations of Theodore David Chuang, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, George Jarrod Hazel, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and Suzan G. LeVine, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Liechtenstein; that at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, May 5, 2014, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations of Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, and Peter A. Selfridge, of Minnesota, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, that there be two minutes for debate prior to each vote, equally divided in the usual form, and that any roll call votes, following the first in each series, be ten minutes in length; and that no further motions be in order to the nominations. **Page S2568**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By a unanimous vote of 95 yeas (Vote No. EX. 118), Sheryl H. Lipman, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. **Pages S2554, S2555**

By a unanimous vote of 95 yeas (Vote No. EX. 119), Stanley Allen Bastian, of Washington, to be

United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington. **Pages S2554, S2555–56**

By a unanimous vote of 95 yeas (Vote No. EX. 120), Manish S. Shah, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Pages S2554, S2556

By a unanimous vote of 94 yeas (Vote No. EX. 121), Daniel D. Crabtree, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

Pages S2554, S2556–57

By a unanimous vote of 94 yeas (Vote No. EX. 122), Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Pages S2554, S2557

By 75 yeas to 20 nays (Vote No. EX. 123), Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

Page S2554

Robert O. Work, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Pages S2554–55, S2557

Messages from the House: **Page S2564**

Measures Referred: **Page S2564**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S2564**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2564–66**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2566–67**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements: **Pages S2561–64**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2568**

Record Votes: Seven record votes were taken today. (Total—123) **Pages S2546, S2555–57**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:46 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 1, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2568.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: FOREST SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Forest Service, after receiving testimony from Tom Tidwell, Chief, and Tony Dixon, Acting Director for Budget, both of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine

proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Army, after receiving testimony from John M. McHugh, Secretary, General Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff, General Frank J. Grass, Chief, National Guard Bureau, Lieutenant General Jeffrey W. Talley, 32nd Chief of the Reserve, and Major General Judd H. Lyons, Acting Director, National Guard, all of the Department of the Army, Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Education, after receiving testimony from Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY AND INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service, after receiving testimony from Jacob Lew, Secretary, John A. Koskinen, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, and J. Russell George, Inspector General for Tax Administration, all of the Department of the Treasury.

APPROPRIATIONS: NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the National Nuclear Security Administration, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Frank G. Klotz, USAF (Ret.), Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reform of the defense acquisition system in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Frank Kendall III, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics; Michael J. Sullivan, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office; Moshe Schwartz,

Specialist in Defense Acquisition Policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Jonathan L. Etherton, National Defense Industrial Association, McLean, Virginia; and David J. Berteau, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C.

TSA OVERSIGHT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Transportation Security Administration, focusing on confronting America's transportation security challenges, after receiving testimony from John Pistole, Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

AFGHANISTAN BEYOND 2014

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs concluded a hearing to examine Afghanistan beyond 2014, after receiving testimony from Jarrett Blanc, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Fatema Z. Sumar, Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia Affairs, both of the Department of State; Kathleen Campbell, Acting Deputy Assistant to the Administrator and Deputy Director of the Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development; and General John Allen (Ret.), Brookings Institution, and Parnian Nazary, Women for Afghan Women, both of Washington, D.C.

BOSTON MARATHON BOMBINGS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine lessons learned from the Boston marathon bombings, focusing on improving intelligence and information sharing, after receiving testimony from I. Charles McCullough III, Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; John Roth, Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General, Department of Justice; and David B. Buckley, Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT AMENDMENTS

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 2132, to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, after receiving testimony from Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs; Tracey A. LeBeau, Director, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, Department of Energy; Carole Lankford, Confederated Salish and

Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation, Pablo, Montana; Michael O. Finley, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Washington, D.C.; Aletha Tom, Moapa Band of Paiutes, Moapa, Nevada; and James M. Olguin, Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council, Ignacio, Colorado.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OVERSIGHT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Drug Enforcement Administration, after receiving testimony from Michele M. Leonhart, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded a hearing to examine how undisclosed money and post-McCutcheon campaign finance will affect the 2014 election and beyond, after receiving testimony from United States Supreme Court Associate Justice John Paul Stevens (Ret.); Neil Reiff, Sandler, Reiff, Young and Lamb, Donald McGahn, Patton Boggs LLP, Norman J. Ornstein, American Enterprise Institute, Trevor Potter, Campaign Legal Center, and Ann M. Ravel, California Fair Political Practices Commission, all of Washington, D.C.

OVERMEDICATION PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine overmedication, focusing on problems and solutions, after receiving testimony from Robert Petzel, Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, Tracy Gaudet, Director, Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation, and Peter Marshall, Director of Primary Care Pain Management, Minneapolis VA Medical Center, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Brigadier General Norvell V. Coots, Deputy Commanding General (Support), Army Medical Command, and Assistant Surgeon General for Force Projection, and Colonel Kevin T. Galloway, Army Pain Management Program Director, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Division, both of the Office of the Surgeon General, United States Army, Department of Defense; Josephine Briggs, Director, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services; Janet R. Kahn, Peace Village Projects, Burlington, Vermont; and Mark J. Edlund, RTI International, Twin Falls, Idaho.

PRECIOUS METALS MARKET

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine exploring the perils of the precious metals market, after receiving testimony from

Dama Brown, Director, Southwest Region, Federal Trade Commission; Rosemary Hollinger, Deputy Director, Division of Enforcement, Commodity Futures

Trading Commission; Karl Spicer, Fairfax, Virginia; and Joe Melomo, Austin, Texas.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 18 public bills, H.R. 4521–4538; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 560–561 were introduced. **Pages H3363–64**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3364–65**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fleischmann to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3295**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H3299**

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015: The House passed H.R. 4486, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 416 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 187.

Pages H3301, H3308–58

Agreed to:

Turner amendment (No. 4 printed in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2014) that redirects \$20,000,000 in funding for Military Construction, Defense-Wide for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services; **Pages H3320–26**

Sinema amendment that increases funding, by offset, for the Office of the Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs by \$1,000,000 to investigate deaths at veterans' health facilities;

Pages H3326–28

Costa amendment that increases funding, by offset, for General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration by \$10,500,000 to assist in the reduction of veterans' disability claims backlog;

Pages H3328–29

Ruiz amendment that redirects \$5,000,000 in funding for General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration for digital scanning of health and benefits files to reduce the benefits claims backlog;

Pages H3329–32

Rothfus amendment (No. 1 printed in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2014) that prohibits funds from being used by the Secretary of Veterans

Affairs to pay a performance award under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code; **Pages H3339–43**

Murphy (FL) amendment that prohibits funds from being used to maintain or improve Department of Defense real property with a zero percent utilization rate according to the Department's real property inventory database, except in the case of maintenance of an historic property or maintenance to prevent a negative environmental impact; **Page H3343**

Ross amendment that prohibits funds from being used to close a commissary store; **Pages H3343–44**

Runyan amendment that prohibits funds from being used to propose, plan for, or execute a new or additional Base Realignment and Closure round;

Pages H3349–50

Gosar amendment that prohibits funds from being used to create or maintain any patient record-keeping system other than those currently approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office in Washington, DC;

Pages H3350–51

Grayson amendment that prohibits funds from being used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if that offeror has (A) within a three-year period preceding this offer, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for commission of a fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or (B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or (C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied;

Page H3351

Gosar amendment that increases funding, by offset, for Department of Veterans Affairs Departmental Administration, Information Technology Systems by \$3,215,910; **Pages H3351–52**

Jackson Lee amendment that prohibits funds made available for benefits for homeless veterans and training and outreach programs from being used in contravention of subchapters II and III of chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code; **Pages H3352–53**

Peters amendment that prohibits funds from being used for a contract that includes first-class travel by a contractor; **Page H3354**

Nunes amendment that prohibits funds from being used for the closure or abandonment of any facility located at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal; **Page H3354**

Walorski amendment that prohibits funds from being used to implement sole source contracting at the national level for the selection of devices and test strips for the self-monitoring of blood glucose; and **Pages H3354–55**

Noem amendment that prohibits funds from being used to prepare an environmental impact statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to a health care facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs that is (1) designated as a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service; and (2) located in a highly rural area. **Page H3355**

Rejected:

Moran amendment (No. 5 printed in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2014) that sought to strike section 411, which prohibits funds from being used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment (by a recorded vote of 168 ayes to 249 noes, Roll No. 185) and **Pages H3337–39, H3355–56**

Blumenauer amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used to implement Veterans Health Administration directive 2011–004 with respect to the prohibition on “VA providers from completing forms seeking recommendations or opinions regarding a Veteran’s participation in a State marijuana program” (by a recorded vote of 195 ayes to 222 noes, Roll No. 186). **Pages H3344–49, H3356–57**

Withdrawn:

Castor (FL) amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased funding, by offset, for Military Construction, Air Force by \$9,800,000 to address black mold in military facilities; **Page H3320**

Terry amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have prohibited funds from being used for administrative expenses of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs meets with the Nebraska delegation to discuss alternative options for the Department of

Veterans Affairs hospital planned for construction in Omaha, Nebraska; and **Pages H3332–34**

LaMalfa amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have allowed a case-worker in a congressional office to contact a Department of Veterans Affairs brokered office to receive an update on a constituent’s case, and that brokered office of the Department is required to update the congressional staffer. **Pages H3334–37**

Point of Order sustained against:

Takano amendment (No. 3 printed in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2014) that sought to prohibit funds from being used for the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program or the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program for career education programs at proprietary institutions unless the successful completion of the curriculum fully qualifies a student (1) to take an examination required for entry into an occupation or profession, including satisfying all State-mandated programmatic and specialized accreditation requirements and (2) to be certified or licensed or to meet other academically-related pre-conditions of employment in the State in which the institution is located; **Page H3344**

Takano amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used by the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program or the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program for recruiting or marketing activities; and **Page H3350**

Farenthold amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used to pay the salary of any officer or employee of the Federal Government with respect to whom the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives has certified a statement of facts to a United States attorney under section 104 of the Revised Statutes. **Pages H3353–54**

H. Res. 557, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4486) and (H.R. 4487), was agreed to by voice vote after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 184. **Pages H3301–08**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of the victims of recent tornadoes. **Page H3356**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, May 1st. **Page H3362**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3307–08., H3355–56, H3356–57, H3357. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Committee Meetings

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Livestock, Rural Development, and Credit held a hearing entitled “To review the State of the Livestock Industry”. Testimony was heard from Joseph Glauber, Chief Economist, Department of Agriculture; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies held a markup on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill FY 2015. The bill was ordered reported to the Full Committee without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a markup on H.R. 4435, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015”. The bill was forwarded to the Full Committee without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a markup on H.R. 4435, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015”. The bill was forwarded to the Full Committee without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a markup on H.R. 4435, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015”. The bill was forwarded, as amended, to the Full Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a markup on H.R. 4435, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015”. The bill was forwarded to the Full Committee without amendment.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WAR ON POVERTY: LESSONS FROM THE FRONTLINES

Committee on The Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “A Progress Report on the War on Poverty: Lessons from the Frontlines”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 2689, the “Energy Savings Through Public-Private Partnerships Act”; H.R. 4092, the “Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2014”; and H.R. 6, the “Domestic Property and Global Freedom Act”. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 2689; H.R. 4092; and H.R. 6.

EXAMINING HOW TECHNOLOGY CAN PROMOTE CONSUMER FINANCIAL LITERACY

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled “Examining How Technology Can Promote Consumer Financial Literacy”. Testimony was heard from Alice Puente Cackley, Director, Financial Services and General Government Markets and Community Investment, Government Accountability Office.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4490, the “United States International Communications Reform Act of 2014”; H.R. 4028, to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom; H. Res. 520, calling for an end to attacks on Syrian civilians and expanded humanitarian access; and H. Con. Res. 51, Immediate Establishment of Syrian War Crimes Tribunal Resolution. The following bills and resolutions were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 4490; H.R. 4028; H. Res. 520; and H. Con. Res. 51.

ASSESSING U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PRIORITIES IN SOUTH ASIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing entitled “Assessing U.S. Foreign Assistance Priorities in South Asia”. Testimony was heard from Nisha Biswal, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Department of State; and Denis Rollins, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau for Asia, U.S. Agency for International Development.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 3283, the “Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2013”; H.R. 4007, the “Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of

2014”; and H.R. 4228, the “DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act”. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 3283; H.R. 4007; and H.R. 4228.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on The Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 3530, the “Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2013”; H.R. 3610, the “Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act of 2013”; H.R. 4225, the “Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act of 2014”; H.R. 776, the “Security in Bonding Act of 2013”; and, H.R. 306, for the relief of Corina de Chalup Turcinovic. The following bills were ordered reported as amended: H.R. 776; H.R. 4225; H.R. 3610; and H.R. 3530. The bill H.R. 306 was ordered reported without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4315, the “21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act”; H.R. 4316, the “Endangered Species Recovery Transparency Act”; H.R. 4317, the “State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act”; and H.R. 4318, the “Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act”. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 4315; and H.R. 4316. The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 4317; and H.R. 4318.

EXAMINING THE EFFECT OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS EXPORTS ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements held a hearing entitled “Examining the Effect of Liquefied Natural Gas Exports on U.S. Foreign Policy”. Testimony was heard from Christopher Smith, Principal Deputy, Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy, Department of Energy; and Amos Hochstein, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Energy Diplomacy, Bureau of Energy Resources, Department of State.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “An Overview of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015”. Testimony was heard from Kathryn Sullivan, Undersecretary, Oceans and Atmosphere, Depart-

ment of Commerce, and Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SBA-CREATED INITIATIVES: NECESSARY OR REDUNDANT SPENDING

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “SBA-created Initiatives: Necessary or Redundant Spending?”. Testimony was heard from Rhett Jeppson, Associate Administrator, Office of Veterans Business Development, Small Business Administration; Tameka Montgomery, Associate Administrator, Office of Entrepreneurial Development, United States Small Business Administration; Javier Saade, Associate Administrator, Office of Investment and Innovation, Small Business Administration.

AIR SERVICE TO SMALL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled “Air Service to Small and Rural Communities”. Testimony was heard from Susan Kurland, Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, Department of Transportation; Gerald L. Dillingham, Director, Civil Aviation Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE MEDICARE OVERSIGHT TO REDUCE WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Ideas to Improve Medicare Oversight to Reduce Waste, Fraud and Abuse”. Testimony was heard from Gloria L. Jarmon, Deputy Inspector General, Audit Services, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services; Kathleen King, Director of Health, Government Accountability Office; and Shantanu Agrawal, M.D., Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Program Integrity, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services.

Joint Meetings

CUTTING RED TAPE

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the first step to cutting red tape, focusing on a better analysis, after receiving testimony from Jay Timmons, National Association of Manufacturers, Washington, D.C.; John D. Graham, Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Bloomington; Michael Greenstone, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; and Shaye R. Mandle, LifeScience Alley, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,
MAY 1, 2014**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Subcommittee on Jobs, Rural Economic Growth and Energy Innovation, to hold hearings to examine the importance of regional strategies in rural economic development, 10 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 9:30 a.m., SD-192.

Committee on Armed Services: to receive a closed briefing on the Ukrainian crisis and Russia, 2 p.m., SVC-217.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine exploring social impact bonds, focusing on investing in what works, 10 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine shortages on gas, focusing on a look into propane shortages this winter, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the President's 2014 Trade Policy Agenda, 11:40 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 1720, to promote transparency in patent ownership and make other improvements to the patent system, and the nominations of Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, and Paul G. Byron, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Darrin P. Gayles, and Beth Bloom, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Deirdre M. Daly, to be United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, and James Walter Frazer Green, to be United States At-

torney for the Middle District of Louisiana, both of the Department of Justice, and Elisebeth Collins Cook, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, markup on H.R. 4435, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015", 9:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Readiness, markup on H.R. 4435, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015", 10:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Telehealth to Digital Medicine: How 21st Century Technology Can Benefit Patients", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals to Enhance Capital Formation for Small and Emerging Growth Companies, Part II", 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled "The Central African Republic: from "Pre-genocide" to Genocide?", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Benghazi, Instability and a New Government: Success and Failures of U.S. Intervention in Libya", 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Ongoing Intelligence Activities", 9 a.m., 304-HVC. This is a closed hearing.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 1

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 11:15 a.m.), Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nominations of Theodore David Chuang, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, George Jarrod Hazel, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, and Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

At 1:45 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Theodore David Chuang, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, George

Jarrod Hazel, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and Suzan G. LeVine, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, May 1

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Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 4487—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2015 (Subject to a Rule).

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